

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Thornburg Foundation Gives Capital Grant for PreK Center at Kaune**

*United Way of Santa Fe County's PreK Center at Kaune receives a \$100,000 capital grant from Thornburg Foundation.*

**Santa Fe, NM** – United Way of Santa Fe County (UWSFC) is proud to announce the receipt of a \$100,000 grant from Thornburg Foundation to further the Capital Campaign for the United Way Early Learning Center at Kaune.

Opening in August 2018, the PreK Center at Kaune signals a major expansion of UWSFC's support for children and families in Santa Fe County. The Center will ultimately house 12 classrooms serving 200 children, ages three to five, and their families. The Center will provide year-round access to high-quality PreK and early childhood education ensuring that children start kindergarten ready-to-learn. The Center will focus on early literacy with a dual-language approach. Kaune is also proud to utilize community partnerships to develop a family-focused resource center. The Center will create 40 new jobs and emphasize work-force development.

“Thornburg Foundation's support is a major milestone as we work to close the gap of our \$5 million goal at Kaune,” said Katherine Freeman, President & CEO. “Their support of children and families in the community is significant.”

“We believe this capital investment into the PreK Center at Kaune makes great sense,” said Allan Oliver, Executive Director of the Thornburg Foundation. “The high quality Pre-K program at Kaune with a dual language approach will offer a much-needed service to Santa Fe families and provide an outstanding model for policymakers and providers.”

The Thornburg Foundation Early Childhood Education Initiative works to improve early childhood outcomes in New Mexico by promoting policies that improve the quality of the early childhood system, increase access, and create a sustainably funded system.

### **ABOUT UNITED WAY OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

Early childhood education and care is the sole mission of United Way of Santa Fe County, with a commitment to ensuring that every child receives an opportunity to succeed in school and in life. UWSFC is committed to engaging the entire community, bringing together people and resources to create opportunities for children and families to achieve their dreams and aspirations.

Beginning in 2004, UWSFC has served approximately 6,000 families by using a two-generation approach, supporting both children and their families in a series of high-quality early childhood programs designed to prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

To learn more please visit [www.uwsfc.org](http://www.uwsfc.org).